

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to compel their stations to air a partisan anti-Kerry documentary days before the election idemonstrates one of the dangers of media consolidation.

With free access to the public airwaves Sinclair is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But the forced airing by Sinclair's affiliates of a grossly partisan piece, without any hint of the right to equal time, does not serve the public or this democracy. Instead of compelling the airing of something produced at "News Central" far away, it is more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. And this action shows that Sinclair needs to be held accountable at renewal time for this action. It is flaunting a power that rests with the people, not it. Thank you.